



Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
Marc Tosiano, State Statistician

717-787-3904
Fax: 717-782-4011
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov
www.usda.gov/nass

A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Press Release

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Pennsylvania Egg Production up 1 Percent in July

HARRISBURG --- **Pennsylvania** egg production totaled 560 million during July, up 1 percent from the July 2002 production, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. There was an average of 23.8 million layers in the Commonwealth during the month, up 1.5 percent from July 2002. Average production per 100 layers was 2,351 eggs during July, 2 eggs less than July 2002.

Egg-type chicks hatched in Pennsylvania during July totaled 4.7 million, 23 percent above the same month last year. Total egg-type chicks hatched from January to July 2002, at 30 million, were down 3 percent from 2002. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 13.1 million during July, down 2 percent from the previous year. Cumulative broiler-type hatch for the first seven months of 2003, at 87.7 million, 4 percent less than the 2002 figure.

United States' egg production totaled 7.34 billion during July 2003, the same as the corresponding month a year ago. The total number of layers during July averaged 332 million, down 1 percent from the number of layers a year ago. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,214 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,190 eggs in July 2002.

Egg-type chicks hatched during July totaled 35.6 million, up slightly from July 2002. Broiler-type hatch, at 777 million, was down 1 percent from July of the previous year. There were 25.2 million turkey poults placed in the United States during July 2003, down 2 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago.